[24th September 1947

Libraries in the hospitals of the Presidency.

*79 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether hospitals in the city and the mufassal are provided with libraries for the use of patients and hospital staff;

(b) whether these libraries, at least in the case of bigger hospitals, are in charge of paid and trained librarians; and

(c) whether the library staff is treated as part of the hospital staff?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(a) The City State hospitals and bigger mufassal hospitals are not provided with libraries for the use of patients but they are equipped with a few books for the use of hospital staff only. There are no facilities for providing books for patients in hospitals in this Province.

Lending libraries of medical books are maintained in each district for the benefit of medical officers and subordinate medical officers in the employ of Government and of Local Bodies, the cost being defrayed partly by voluntary subscriptions paid by medical officers and others who enrol themselves as subscribers to the library and partly from annual grants given by the local bodies in each district and the Government.

"(b) & (c) The books in the City State hospitals and in some of the bigger hospitals in the mufassal are in charge of a clerk borne on the hospital staff. He is not a trained librarian but he is part of the hospital establishment.

As regards District Medical Lending Libraries, they are maintained in the office of each District Medical Officer and they are under his control and supervision. The work of the library in each district is conducted by the clerk of the District Medical Officer's office without any remuneration being a servant of the Government. The senior Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to the District Headquarters hospital or any other suitable medical officer or subordinate is appointed by the District Medical Officer as librarian.

Libraries are maintained in all the medical colleges and the King Institute, Guindy. They are in-charge of paid staff, i.e., clerks designated as librarians. They are treated as part of the staff of the Medical colleges and the King Institute, Guindy."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister does not think that the time has come for patients in hospitals also to be provided with libraries?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"It is certainly desirable, Sir."

24th September 1947]

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will be good enough to allot such grants that he is giving to the hospital libraries equally to those libraries meant for the patients also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The books available in the hospital libraries are limited in number. It is only in the medical college libraries that we have a large number of books."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Hospital Committee of the Guild of Service have been sending for the last 14 years, bundles of book once a month for the patients in all the civilian hospitals in Madras regularly? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am very glad to have the information from the hon. lady member."

Applications received for admission in Medical Colleges from different communities.

* 80 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications received this year for admission into each of the Medical Colleges of the Province from (1) Brahmans, (2) Non-Brahmans, (3) Muslims and (4) Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians ;

(*b*) how many from each community were admitted into the colleges;

(*c*) the qualifications (that is, B.A., B.Sc., or Intermediate) and details of marks obtained by the first and last ten admitted from each community in English, the group or subject taken by the applicant and total number of marks ; and

(*d*) in the case of Brahman applicants the marks of the topmost ten candidates as mentioned above, who were refused admission?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) All the Medical Colleges are taken together for purposes of admission. The students do not apply for admission to a particular college but mention their preference and they are distributed to the different colleges only after the selection. This year, 528 Brahmins, 629 Non-Brahmins, 156 Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians, 48 Muslims and 13 Harijans applied for admission.

" (*b*) Fifty-eight Brahmins, 148 Non-Brahmins, 57 Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians, 46 Muslims and 13 Harijans (all of them) were admitted.

" (*c*) & (*d*) As the selection of candidates is made on a district-war basis it is not possible to furnish the information."